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OVER \$33 MILLION CLEARED FOR UTAH LAW ENFORCEMENT, OLYMPIC SAFETY BY SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

\$12.7 million approved for Utah law enforcement officials involved in Winter Games

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today the Senate Appropriations Committee approved over \$33 million for state security and communication efforts requested by Sen. Bob Bennett (R-Utah), including \$12.7 million for Utah law enforcement officials who will cover the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

“Utah’s law enforcement teams will be working around the clock to help ensure security at the Games,” said Bennett, a member of the Appropriations Committee. “Of the 2,500 officials who will be involved in this effort, many will leave their homes and families and be temporarily reassigned. These funds will help off-set the additional costs incurred by this circumstance.”

Bennett noted that securing Olympic venues in mountainous areas requires a substantial increase in personnel. And unlike the Summer Games in Atlanta, where military troops provided a significant portion of the force for venue security, recent legislation requires the Utah venues be secured primarily through the use of local and federal law enforcement personnel. Of the 3,500 law enforcement officials in the state, approximately 2,500 will be involved in the Games.

The Utah Olympic Public Safety Command will receive \$12.7 million for this effort and in turn reimburse the appropriate agencies. The funds will help with overtime, housing and other expenses incurred with involvement of the Utah law enforcement officials.

Following are additional projects whose funding, requested by Bennett, was approved in the FY2002 Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Bill:

- **\$5 million for Utah Communications Network (UCAN)**

The Congress approved a Bennett request of \$5 million for the UCAN which will allow for an upgrade of security and communications infrastructure and assist with the law enforcement needs amplified by the Olympics. Bennett noted this new system will support two-way communications between law enforcement personnel within a single agency or between many agencies. It will allow all SLOC security and public safety entities to cross-communicate during the games.

- **\$10 million for Copyright Enforcement (Cybercrime and Intellectual Property Enforcement) at the U.S. Department of Justice**

Utah's high-tech industry is greatly affected by the theft of intellectual property, both in terms of Internet piracy and shrink wrap sales. Unfortunately, the Justice Department does not have the appropriate tools to search out this criminal element; Due to inadequate funding, only six cases have been brought by the Justice Department under the No Electronic Theft (NET) Act since it was passed in 1997 to address this growing problem. These funds will strengthen this effort.

- **\$1.5 million for Central Utah Methamphetamine Program**

Currently, central Utah has one of the biggest methamphetamine problems in the nation. As requested by Bennett, the committee has approved \$1.5 million to support law enforcement's efforts to crack down on the illegal production of such drugs. The requested funds will allow for the purchase of mobile cameras, video monitors and surveillance vehicles. The equipment will be used for the detection of meth labs and prosecution of individuals throughout central Utah.

- **\$1 million for Cache Valley Multi-Jurisdiction 800-Megahertz Law Enforcement Project**

The multi-jurisdictional 800-Megahertz Project will increase efficiency in this area of the state. By providing a standardized communication system, public safety officials in Cache will have the ability to coordinate with their counterparts throughout northern Utah, share public safety resources, and respond when a multi-jurisdictional public safety approach is needed.

- **\$3 million for Parents Anonymous**

Senator Bennett, along with other Senate members, helped secure \$3 million to fund the nation's oldest child abuse prevention program helping tens of thousands of parents and children across America and in Utah. Established in 1970, Parents Anonymous, Inc. was founded by a courageous mother seeking a safe and secure environment for her children. Now the program is the nation's premiere family strengthening program.

- **\$ 1.1 million for Patent and Trademark (PTO) Office**

PTO is charged with administering the patent and trademark laws of the United States. As part of the president's budget and through Bennett's efforts, the committee recommended a total budget increase from \$1.03 million last year to \$1.14 million this

year to help offset the significant growth in recent years of applications for patents and trademarks. Bennett noted that it is becoming increasingly important to fund organizations that protect the products of intellectual creativity streaming into our society and economy at a record pace.

The bill now goes to the full Senate.

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